

ARGENTINA -- Your meeting with President Jorge Rafael VIDELA

1. Human Rights

- Note our concern over numerous incidents of prolonged detention, disappearance or torture, all of which strain our relations with Argentina.
- President Carter was heartened by Videla's expressed desire to resolve status of political detainees by Christmas.
- Express hope that these 4,000 cases will soon be decided, despite procedural obstacles.
- US was encouraged by decision to restore "right of option", and hopes its provisions will allow many to leave prison. *Concerned - taking so long - reaching so few.*
- Cite our special concern for Jacobo Timerman, Deutsch family and interest aroused in US by arrest of AP reporter Serrat.
- Assert that GOA should clarify fates of those who disappeared without explanation; while some were victims of terrorists, security forces also appear involved in many instances.
- Argue that public accounting of all prisoners held by GOA would settle many doubts and considerably improve Argentina's world image.
- *You know our feeling on torture. You are as troubled as we are by reports of torture continued.*  
Torture of prisoners is unacceptable under any circumstances, but we still hear such reports, especially during first days of detention. Torture should be forbidden and future cases tried in courts.

2. Terrorism

- State our sympathy for both officials and innocent civilians and their families who have been victims of terrorist attacks.
- US is deeply troubled by international terrorism, but we cannot condone counterterrorist actions that violate human rights and due legal process.

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

Change to

( ) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny ( ) Declassify

Exemptions b ( ) ( ) E.O. 13526 25x ( ) ( )

Declassify after

With concurrence of:

*A* obtained 11-1-19 not obt.

Vande lot file 80D135

Box 1

~~overseeing June 14-17, 1977~~

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